

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations  
2007 Legislative Agenda  
Adopted August 9, 2006**

<b>Priority #</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action requested</b>	<b>State Agency Responsible</b>	<b>Legislative or Budget Actions Taken</b>	<b>Status as of 8/9/06</b>
1	Strengthen Virginia Guard and Reserve	<p>Enhance recruiting and retention efforts and address personnel and equipment needs. Requested initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Construct additional military family support centers</li> <li>b. Provide full funding for National Guard tuition assistance</li> <li>c. Provide tax credits and/or exemptions for employers supporting the Guard/Reserve</li> <li>d. Increase funding for National Guard equipment maintenance</li> <li>e. Provide funding for a National Guard equipment pool for in-state emergencies</li> </ul>	Department of Military Affairs (DMA)		

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2	DVS Strategic Plan and Budget	Continued funding of DVS programs to increase awareness of and access to veterans' services. Specific programs include: a. Outreach, awareness, and communications programs b. Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center c. Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery d. Benefit Services programs	Department of Veterans Services (DVS)		
3	In-state tuition	Grant Virginia-resident status to Active Duty and Reserve service members stationed in Virginia for the purpose of in-state tuition at public colleges and universities	State Council on Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)		
4	Virginia War Memorial Educational Wing	Appropriate an additional \$3.5 million in General Funds to construct the Virginia War Memorial Educational Wing	Virginia War Memorial through Department of General Services (DGS)		

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5	Veterans Preference	Clarify definition of “preference” in the Code of Virginia so that real preference is given	Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM)		
6	Pay Day Lending	Enact legislation to curb the practice of pay day lending to military service members	Secretary of Commerce and Trade (SCT)		
7	State Tax Exemption	Provide for a state tax exemption for Virginia residents (Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve) who are serving in a hostile fire or imminent danger zone	Department of Taxation (Tax)		